

Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard called a “much more insidious” form of press repression. Quoted in the Committee to Protect Journalists’ “Attacks on the Press 2010” report, Ms. Erick elaborated that, “You never know where the censorship is coming from—through threats, attacks on the streets, new laws, or lack of access. The threats are always there and sometimes lead to self-censorship even before censorship begins.”

In the spirit of this World Press Freedom Day, Mr. Speaker, let me then use the balance of my time to turn over just a few of these “much more insidious” rocks:

In Venezuela, the government has engaged in what CPJ unambiguously calls “a systematic campaign to stifle dissent.” It included barring the publication of photos in conjunction with reporting on rampant crime and unsolved murder cases; suddenly voiding the broadcasting license of the nation’s oldest television channel and a major critic of the government; and exploiting or inventing technical regulations to administratively shut down dozens of radio stations also critical of the government.

In Ecuador, the OAS’ 2009 Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights special rapporteur for freedom of expression found that, “Ecuador has seen a rising climate of polarization in which attacks on and threats against journalists and media outlets of all editorial positions have increased”; a March 3 Inter-American Press Association report stated flatly that the government had “redoubled its offensive” against press freedom; and, just last month our own State Department’s 2010 Human Rights Report found—among many other actions—that, “In June and July, during the broadcast of the Soccer World Cup matches, the government ran a media campaign against the press, referring to media outlets as corrupt and delinquent.”

... And, in Argentina—according to The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and The Financial Times among many other outlets—for more than two years the government has waged an escalating war against critical media outlets. Specifically, the government: was just found by the nation’s Supreme Court to have unconstitutionally allocated government advertising funds to reward news outlets favorable to its policies while withholding such funds from opponents; shut down and tried to literally force the sale of the nation’s biggest private internet service provider; orchestrated a surprise raid by 200 federal tax agents on the offices of the nation’s largest media company and then dismissed the raids as a “mistake”; and—in a series of moves taken directly from the original Peronists’ playbook—is seeking aggressively to seize control of the nation’s newsprint supply to silence opposition newspapers by literally making it impossible for them to go to press.

These are just a few of the things happening in a few of the countries in our own backyard, Mr. Speaker, that justify—indeed, demand that Congress remain vigilant and vocal in defense of freedom of expression everywhere . . . not just on World Press Freedom Day, but every day of every year.

## IN REMEMBRANCE OF VINCENT JOHN SKINDELL

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Vincent John Skindell. Vincent passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 13, 2011 in a car accident.

Vincent Skindell was born on August 19, 1960 to Vincent M. and Carol (nee Kaska) Skindell. Vincent was a 1978 graduate of Brunswick High School and an evening manager at Goodyear Tire in Brunswick for 12 years. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially gardening, fishing, and hunting and enjoyed shooting pool also.

Vincent was preceded in death by his father Vincent and his son Joshua Skindell. Vincent is survived by his wife Shawn (nee McGee); his daughter Tara Painting; his grandchildren Faith and Noah Painting; his mother Carol; his step-children Christie Stiffler and Jennifer Pasquale and step-grandchildren Matthew, Nicholas, and Michael Stiffler and Allison and Olivia Pasquale.

Vincent is also survived by his brother Michael, who is a State Senator in Ohio, representing Cleveland, Lakewood, Parma, and other Cleveland suburbs in the 10th Congressional District. Vincent was always supportive and active in Michael’s campaigns as a Lakewood City Councilman, a State Representative, and State Senator. I would frequently see Vincent and his family at campaign events for Michael and at my own events.

Mr. Speaker and respected colleagues, please join me in remembering Vincent John Skindell, citizen and friend, and in offering condolences to his family who are now grieving his loss.

## RECOGNIZING VICTIMS OF CONCENTRATION CAMP IN OMARSKA

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victims of a notorious concentration camp in Omarska, located in northwestern Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the summer of 1992, Omarska was the site of murder, torture and other mass violations of human rights. It is thanks to the courage of the British journalists Ed Vulliamy, Penny Marshall and Ian Williams and their brave reporting, that the world learned about the horrors of Omarska in the last decade of the 20th century.

As we remember the victims of Omarska, let us reinforce the significance of remembrance and the right of the survivors and families of the victims to mark this tragic chapter in the history of Europe.

## CONGRATULATING ZOE FROMER, KIRILL SAFIN, AND IZAAL LAKHIA OF ATLANTIC HIGH SCHOOL IN DELRAY BEACH, FL ON THE FOUNDING OF INITIATIVE RENAISSANCE

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I proudly recognize Zoe Fromer, Kirill Safin, and Izaal Lakhia of Atlantic High School in Delray Beach, Florida as Hastings’ Star Students. When state budget cuts to education forced their school to cut back on arts programs, these young people took the task of saving these programs into their own hands. They formed Initiative Renaissance, an aptly named organization that raises funds to restore classes such as drama, musical engineering and chorus. The organization’s \$100,000 fundraising goal would help improve arts facilities and expand the school’s band and visual arts programs. Their mission has garnered national recognition and Initiative Renaissance was accepted into the Pepsi Refresh Project with a chance to win a \$50,000 grant.

Zoe, Kirill, and Izaal’s passion for attaining a well-rounded education demonstrates the folly of cutting funding to arts and education. All students deserve a public education that fully prepares them to compete in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that these young people chose to fight to save their school’s arts programs and applaud their dedication and perseverance to this project, which has undoubtedly been beneficial to the entire community.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CLEVELAND SYRIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the grand opening of the Cleveland Syrian Cultural Gardens, taking place on May 29, 2011.

The 254-acre piece of land that constitutes Rockefeller Park was donated to the City of Cleveland by John D. Rockefeller in 1896. The Cleveland Syrian Cultural Gardens is a fifty-acre piece of land within Rockefeller Park. These gardens were founded in 1926 to create a memorial area for the diverse ethnic groups that shape the region, and to serve as a space of reflection on peace, cooperation and understanding. The Cultural Gardens is currently a collection of 26 gardens which include African-American, American Indian, British, Chinese, Czech, Estonian, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Polish, and Slovenian gardens, among others.

In 1929, the land for a Syrian Cultural Garden was allotted to the Greater Syrian American Community. The Syrian American and Arab American community have, for over 100 years, played a vital role in the spiritual, social and cultural life of the greater Cleveland community. For unknown reasons, the garden was never planned or built.